4·24 The Collector's Magazine

Focus on stamps

Stars of the Ice Age

Focus

The Sprayer of Zurich

Idyllic winter landscapes

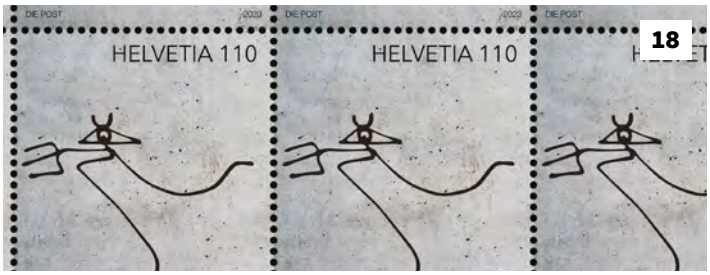

Image:PADDINGTON © P&Co Limited/SC 2024

Photo: Cortis & Sonderegger, Keystone

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You can scan stamps via this icon with the Post-App.

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swisspost.ch/focus-on-stamps-subscription

Photo: Yosia Christen

All a matter of opinion?

The way we see things is often a question of perspective. Also when it comes to art, as the example of Harald Naegeli shows. At the end of the 1970s, the world-renowned "Sprayer of Zurich" (p. 8) polarized opinion with his murals. Was it art or just plain damage to property? Today, we can say that Naegeli's work was pioneering, making street art socially acceptable in Switzerland. We pay tribute to his work with the current art stamp.

Our thinking is shaped not only by values, but also by our level of knowledge. In the Middle Ages, the people of Reiden in the canton of Lucerne assumed that giants existed, because they found a gigantic bone. Around 200 years later, it was thought that a prehistoric elephant was behind it. Today we know it was part of the remains of a mammoth (p. 22). Now, genetic researchers are trying to clone the extinct giants, which in turn raises ethical questions. What do you think? And what will society think in 200 years' time?

If you want to look ahead, it can be useful to look back – especially in an anniversary year such as this one: for 175 years, Swiss Post has been promoting culture and art by issuing stamps, and for the last 100 years with a contemporary art collection. We have used this opportunity to take a look at where we are now and where we want to go in the future. Why not make use of wintertime yourself to take a look back at this year and visualize the year ahead? The Christmas stamp (p. 4) invites you to take a close look, pause for a moment and adopt a new perspective. I hope you enjoy the designs and gain some new insights.

Stefan Bühler
Head of Stamps & Philately – Swiss Post

Windows to the soul

The new Christmas stamps are reminiscent of small windows in an Advent calendar. Looking through them reveals a design within the design: idyllic winter landscapes that invite you to pause for a moment.

Landscapes billowing in soft cotton wool, warm lights and starry snow crystals falling slowly from the sky: if you look out of the window in winter, you'll quite often find a little door – a door to the world of your own thoughts. The new Christmas designs pick up on this special peculiarity of wintertime, with a stylized window in the form of a typical Christmas symbol taking center stage on each stamp. If you take the time to peer out of the little windows, you'll discover idyllic winter landscapes – a design within the design. As such, the images encourage you to enjoy a moment of profound contemplation, whether it's reflecting on the year just gone or thinking of the year ahead. At the same time, the festive season is not only a good opportunity to pause for a moment, but also to bring joy to others: "Christmas is a lovely time, and a popular time for sending personal words to people close to you in the form of cards or letters. For me and my team, it is a pleasure to make our contribution with atmospheric stamps," says Isabelle Bühler, Stamps & Philately Product Manager at Swiss Post.

120
250
190
100
Scan the stamps from 1 December to solve daily puzzles and win great prizes in the Advent calendar.
Decorate your Christmas post with stickers on the stamp sheets.

Solidarity with people in need

Supporting people living in poverty, making others happy, sharing your own prosperity with others: that's the aim of the "2 × Christmas" solidarity campaign which begins on 24 December. Every year, the Swiss Red Cross, broadcaster SRG SSR, retailer Coop and Swiss Post collect donated goods parcels for people living in poverty. The collection period runs from Christmas Eve until mid-January. Donated goods parcels can be handed in free of charge at any Swiss Post branch. People donating goods can also have their parcels collected for free by a mail carrier from their home or another address with "pick@home", by visiting www.swisspost.ch/2xchristmas. The campaign runs until 18 January 2025.

Festive cards with matching stamps and covers

"Christmas is a lovely and popular time of the year for sending personal greetings to people close to you in the form of cards or letters."

Isabelle Bühler, Stamps & Philately Product Manager at Swiss Post

Simply order at postshop.ch

Set on first-day cover C6

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 10 stamps each
1.00 Christmas tree
★ A552 361 / ⊙ A552 381 / *CHF 10.00*
1.20 Christmas bauble
★ A552 362 / ⊙ A552 382 / *CHF 12.00*
1.90 Star
★ A552 363 / ⊙ A552 383 / *CHF 19.00*
2.50 Snow crystal
★ A552 364 / ⊙ A552 384 / *CHF 25.00*

Set
★ A552 150 / ⊙ A552 550 / *CHF 6.60*

Set of blocks of four
★ A552 160 / ⊙ A552 560 / *CHF 26.40*

Covers

Set on first-day cover C6
⊙ A552 580 / *CHF 7.50*

Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (4 covers)
⊙ A552 600 / *CHF 10.20*

Block of four on first-day cover C6 (4 covers)
⊙ A552 630 / *CHF 30.00*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A552 700 / *CHF 0.90*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A552 640 / ⊙ A552 650 / *CHF 7.40*

Card set

Set of 4 folded cards A6, 4 covers C6 and 4 "Christmas bauble" Christmas stamps at CHF 1.20 (not affixed)
★ A552 951 / *CHF 10.60*
The Christmas cards are not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 31.10.2024 to 31.12.2025 or while stocks last
Branches: from 7.11.2024 to 31.12.2025 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 7.11.2024

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Formats Stamp: 28×33 mm
Sheet: 100×228 mm (open), 100×114 mm (folded)
5 rows of 2 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation Serpentine cut (4 sides)

Design Sandra De Coppi, Meilen

Festive envelope and postmark “Bethlehem” for your Christmas post

Bethlehem Christmas branch

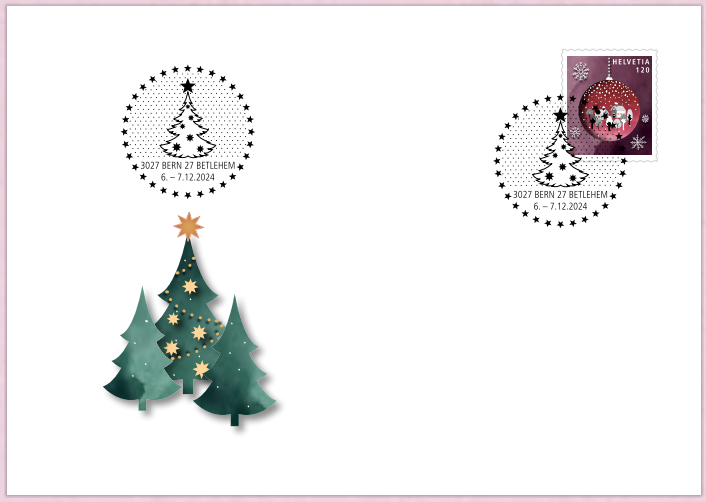
Date: 6–7 December 2024
Place: Christmas chalet at the Bern-Bethlehem Swiss Post branch, Fellerstrasse 28, 3027 Bern
Getting there: Tram no. 8 to the Tscharnergut stop
Opening times: Friday, 6.12.2024, 9 a.m. to 12 noon / 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 7.12.2024, 9 a.m. to 12 noon / 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

We’re delighted that a Christmas chalet will again be opening its doors at the Bern-Bethlehem branch this year. To send your Christmas mail with the “Bethlehem” cancellation, bring your letters to Bern-Bethlehem during the sales stand’s opening hours, or send your Christmas mail franked with valid stamps (no express items) directly to the following address: Post CH Network Ltd, Cancellation Service, “Bethlehem”, Werkstrasse 41, 3250 Lyss.

Deadline for domestic Christmas mail: 11 December 2024. Please enclose a pre-franked, self-addressed envelope so that unaddressed items for cancellation can be returned to you.

Bethlehem special cancellation

Send your Christmas mail with the Bethlehem postmark



Bethlehem special covers

Special cover C6
Franked with the “Christmas bauble” special stamp at CHF 1.20 and cancelled with the special cancellation “3027 Bern 27 Bethlehem 6–7.12.2024”
⊙ A552 141 / *CHF 2.10*

Special cover without stamp C6
★ A552 142 / *CHF 0.90*
The special covers are not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Find out more about the Christmas branch in Bethlehem at swisspost.ch/stamps

Christmas stamps by subscription

Christmas stamps are not only perfect for your holiday greetings, they also add a sense of festive cheer to the rest of your letters. They are also available by subscription: get the latest designs automatically and with peace of mind every year and surprise your loved ones with your mail. You determine the number of sheets (1 sheet = 10 stamps) and the face value yourself.

More information about the various subscriptions at: swisspost.ch/stamp-subscriptions

Wienacht-Tobel

Starting this year, the Wienacht-Tobel Christmas market will no longer be held. Information on this decision can be found at www.wienachtsmarkt.ch. As a result, the traditional Swiss Post special cover and the special cancellation will no longer be offered.

Multilateral set

With this year's multilateral Christmas product, you will receive 16 original Christmas stamps from Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland. The joint stamp issue is only available in German.

There may be delays to the shipping of this product. However, other products in the same order will be delivered on time.

Multilateral Christmas set

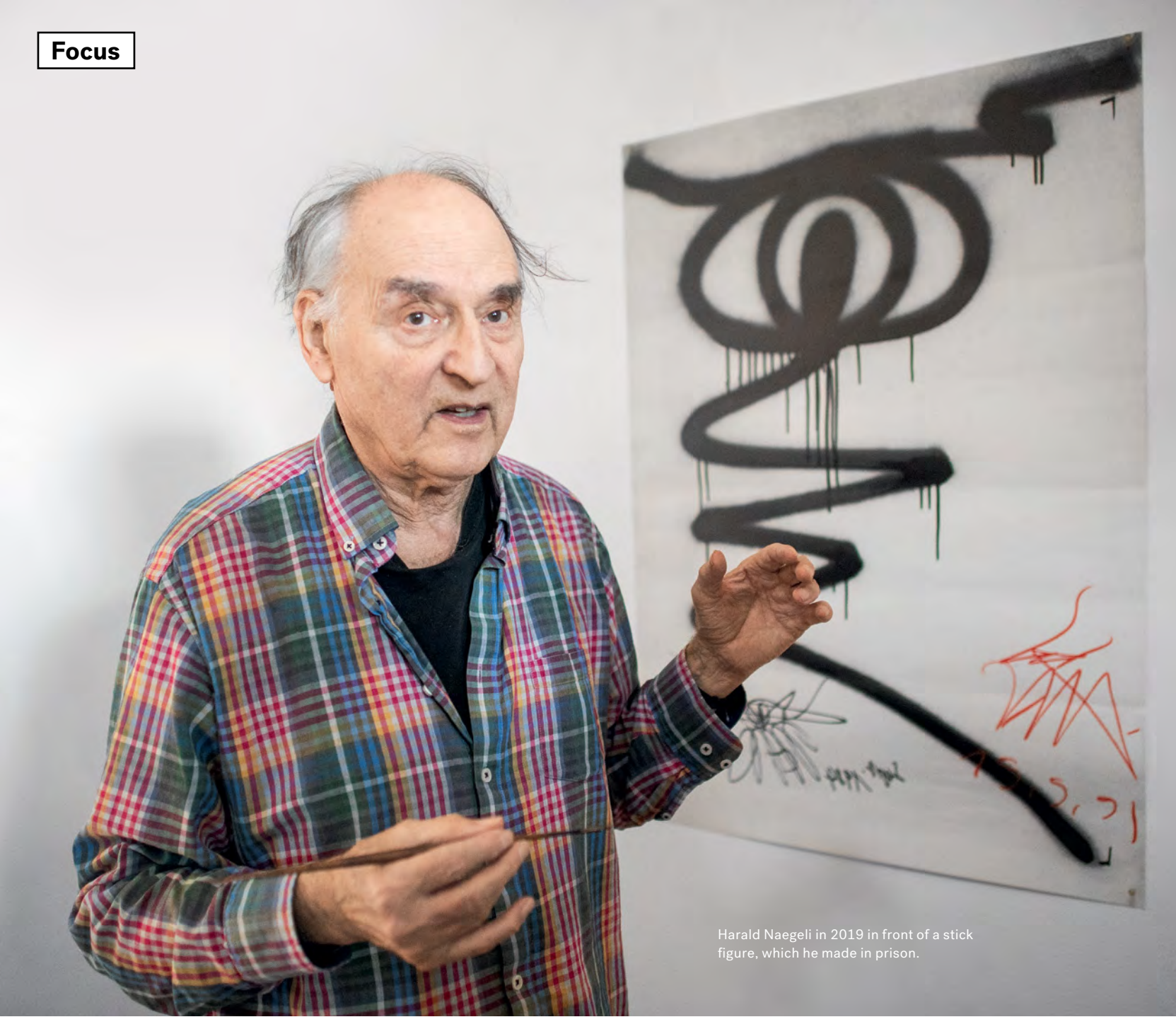
★ A552 990 / *CHF 29.95*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Don't want to miss any news about the next Swiss Crypto Stamp? Then visit **swisspost.ch/crypto-stamp** and register for the crypto stamp newsletter.

What does a look into the special crystal ball reveal?

4 December 2024



Harald Naegeli in 2019 in front of a stick figure, which he made in prison.

The Sprayer of Zurich

Sooner or later, anyone strolling around Zurich will come across a “Naegeli”. The line drawings of the “Sprayer of Zurich”, graffiti artist Harald Naegeli, can be seen on countless walls. In a limited special issue, Swiss Post is paying tribute to the artist with a deft upcycling of the “Art in architecture” stamp.

Copy: Andrea Schmits **Photos: Keystone, Andrea Zahler**

During the coronavirus pandemic, Harald Naegeli sprayed several Grim Reaper motifs onto walls around Zurich. The work near the town hall was later removed by private individuals.

"The Zurich danse macabre was my last work."

Harald Naegeli, street art pioneer from Switzerland

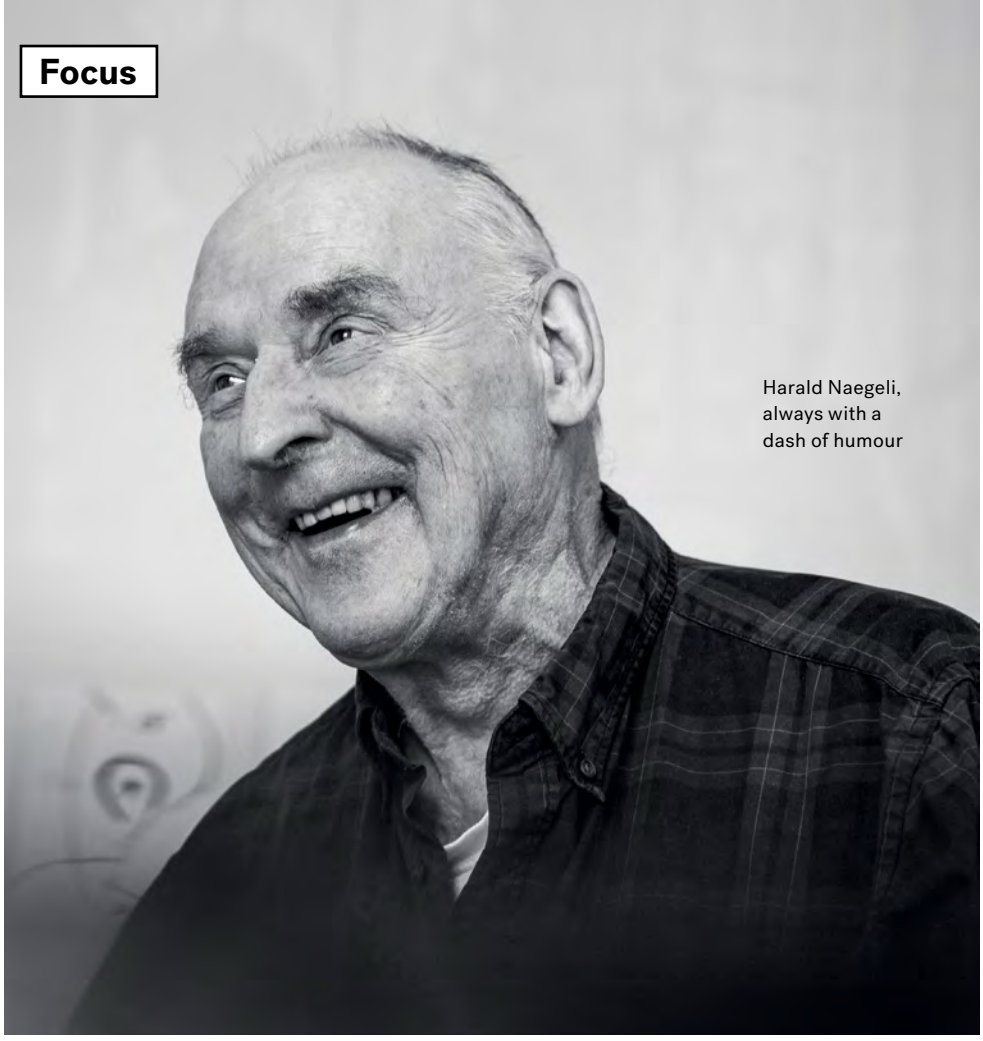
At the end of the 1970s, when hundreds of long-limbed stick figures suddenly started appearing on previously bare walls, concrete pillars and staircases, there was a public outcry. The tagging triggered fierce public debate in Zurich. The sprayer's harshest critics called for the unknown perpetrator to be arrested and punished to ensure he would not consider doing it again. There was a volley of complaints about damage to property, with one group of private individuals even going so far as to offer a bounty. In 1979, Harald Naegeli was caught by a plain-clothes police officer, sentenced to nine months in jail and also ordered to pay 200,000 francs in damages.

But the Sprayer of Zurich fled to Germany, where politicians and artists showed their solidarity with Naegeli and even the Commission on Human Rights got involved. Without success: in 1984, the then 45-year-old began his prison sentence in Switzerland. Released after six months, he again turned his back on Switzerland. While he continued his tagging in Germany, he also made increasing use of paper.

Honoured by Zurich, on display in the Kunsthaus museum

Naegeli turns 85 this year and continues to be a polarizing figure: back in Zurich, he took advantage of the quietness of the 2020 coronavirus lockdown to spray several Grim Reaper skeletons on private and public buildings. "The Zurich danse macabre was my last work," says Naegeli. Since then, he has put away his spray cans.

Not everyone was happy about his works. The Kunsthaus Zürich art museum had the motifs on its wall removed and filed criminal charges for property damage, although it withdrew



Harald Naegeli, always with a dash of humour

them shortly afterwards. The Building Department of the Canton of Zurich and the Zentralbibliothek Zürich foundation also pressed charges.

The city of Zurich, by contrast, reacted very differently, deciding to keep the works from the coronavirus period, award the Zurich artist its art prize and add six designs from the 1970s to its art collection. The decision gave the tagger, once prosecuted, the status of an officially recognized artist. Today, his works are seen as valued artistic interventions in the everyday world. A number of institutions, including ETH Zurich, have protected and conserved his drawings – with some even being included in the Swiss Federal Art Collection.

A stamp for Switzerland's street art pioneer

Swiss Post is now paying tribute to Naegeli with a stamp. It uses the design representing a grey concrete wall from the remaining stocks of the "Art in architecture" stamp, which was issued in 2023, and which forms the perfect basis for Harald Naegeli's "Laufendes Auge" (Running Eye). The artist's response: "I'm delighted". In a way, the honour is also about making amends for the past – a signal to those critics who would remove his works from their walls. Diana Pavlicek, Head of the Art Department at Swiss Post, was responsible for the decision. She says: "Harald Naegeli is a pioneer – he made street art socially acceptable." And he always remained true to himself and his art. Pavlicek is in little doubt: "Today, a conviction would be inconceivable."

More information

Swiss Post's commitment to art
www.swisspost.ch/commitment-to-art

Art in architecture stamp
www.post.ch/en/about-us/responsibility/commitment-to-art/art-projects-and-news

Harald Naegeli Stiftung
www.haraldnaegelistiftung.ch

More about the limited edition of the special stamp on pages 18–19.

Naegeli drawing in the Swiss Post art collection

Swiss Post has been promoting and collecting contemporary art for around 100 years, offering a diverse platform for artists in Switzerland. Among the approximately 450 works in the collection is a drawing on paper from Naegeli's "Urwolken" (Primordial Clouds) series. It consists of countless dots and strokes of charcoal and ink applied by the artist over the course of 13 years. On the back, there is a kind of personal diary of that period.

"Urwolke" (Primordial Cloud) by Naegeli

Excerpt from Harald Naegeli's diary: "The primordial cloud is a definition of an endless drawing. It now consists of 400 to 500 parts in a 108 × 75 cm format, on fine handmade paper. All parts begin with a dot placed somewhere in the image space." (29 September 2011)

"Überarbeitete Teile der Urwolke"
(Reworked Parts of the Primordial Cloud), 2012.
This work is part of Swiss Post's art collection.

© Harald Naegeli

The charity stamp – past and present

In 1912, Pro Juventute was founded to combat the spread of tuberculosis – financed by the sale of a charity stamp. The stamp surcharge continues to benefit the foundation's projects to this day.

At the time of Pro Juventute's founding, some 10,000 people in Switzerland are suffering from tuberculosis. The goals of the foundation's initiators are to use preventive measures to curb the disease and to campaign for the good health of children and young people. The first projects are to be financed with a charity stamp, with the proceeds going to the foundation: "In 1912, Swiss Post authorizes the sale by Pro Juventute of a 10-centime stamp that is not valid for postage," explains Lulzana Musliu, Head of Public Affairs & Media at the Pro Juventute Foundation. This marks the start of the popular stamp series.

In a changing society

In response to high demand, the first 5-centime stamp valid for postage is issued the following year with a surcharge of a further 5 centimes for the foundation. 3.3 million are sold in 1913. While the proceeds initially went towards fighting tuberculosis, they were used to help families in need during the First World War. "Over the years, as society has changed, the focal points of our commitment have also changed," explains Musliu. In the 1950s, for example, the foundation initiated the first Robinson playgrounds, while, in the 1990s, it set up the confidential helpline number 147, which to this day is still available for children and young people free of charge, around the clock and every day of the year.

From wartime aid to media training

Today, the foundation is financed mainly by donations and bequests, as well as partnerships and sponsoring. Since the inception of Pro Juventute, Swiss Post has supported the organization as a partner. "Buying Pro Juventute stamps allows everyone to do something good – in terms of crowdfunding," says Stefan Bühler, Head of Stamps & Philately at Swiss Post, explaining the commitment. The surcharge of 50 and 60 centimes per stamp goes into the general pot used by the foundation to finance its services: "Our current focus is on early childhood, mental health, media literacy and the transition from school to work." In addition to the 147 number, this includes, for example, free job application training to help young people get started with their career or courses that teach competent use of digital media. Other services are aimed at parents, such as letters for parents or parent counselling.
More information at www.projuventute.ch

Volunteering with Pro Juventute

If you want to show your commitment to children and young people, you can find opportunities for individual or corporate volunteers on the Pro Juventute website. www.projuventute.ch/de/helfen/aktiv-werden

Stamp booklet

Scan the stamps and travel back in time to 1915.

Everything old is new again

The current designs are a reinterpretation of one of the first Pro Juventute stamp sets dating from 1915. Just like now, these early stamps portray children in their environment, which is continually changing. But the past hasn't yet faded away entirely. When UV light is shone on the new stamps, the original designs from 1915 can be seen. In essence, the two versions are almost identical – and yet completely different at the same time.

Set on first-day cover C6

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 10 stamps
1.00+0.50 Green
★ A550 361 / ⊙ A550 381 / *CHF 15.00*
1.20+0.60 Red
★ A550 362 / ⊙ A550 382 / *CHF 18.00*

Set
★ A550 150 / ⊙ A550 550 / *CHF 3.30*

Set of blocks of four
★ A550 160 / ⊙ A550 560 / *CHF 13.20*

Covers

Set on first-day cover C6
⊙ A550 580 / *CHF 4.20*

Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)
⊙ A550 600 / *CHF 5.10*

Block of four on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)
⊙ A550 630 / *CHF 15.00*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A550 700 / *CHF 0.90*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A550 640 / ⊙ A550 650 / *CHF 4.10*

Stamp booklet

6 self-adhesive stamps at CHF 1.00+0.50 with the "Green" design and 6 self-adhesive stamps at CHF 1.20+0.60 with the "Red" design
★ A550 300 / ⊙ A550 800 / *CHF 19.80*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

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Branches: from 7.11.2024 to 30.6.2025 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 7.11.2024

Printing Offset, 2-colour + UV colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Formats Stamp: 28×33 mm
Sheet: 82×228 mm (open), 82×114 mm (folded), 5 rows of 2 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation Serpentine cut (4 sides)

Design Olivia von Wattenwyl, Kehrsatz

Simply order at postshop.ch

Scan the stamps and win great prizes in the hidden object competition.

Set on first-day cover C6

Globine and Globi at the post office

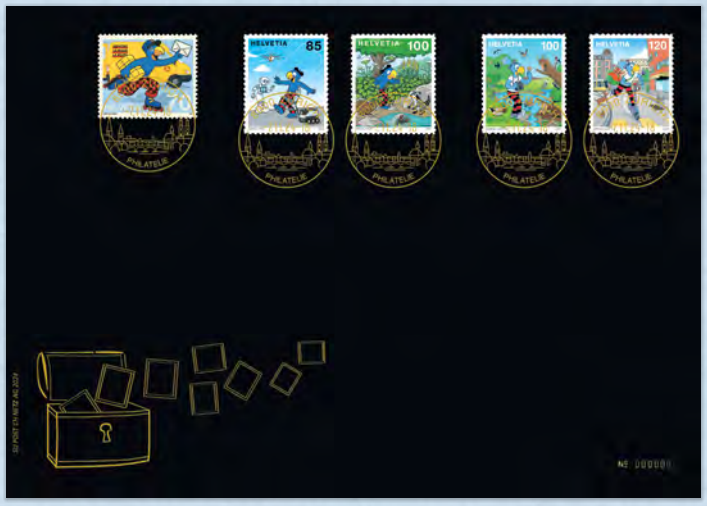
To celebrate Stamp Day, Globine and her friend Globi welcome you to a day full of surprises at three Swiss Post branches in November. An event for all the family, stamp enthusiasts and fans of Globine and Globi. The event locations and detailed programme are available at swisspost.ch/stamps

With head and heart

Globine, Globi's friend, is back with a fresh new drawing style. For this special issue, Globine illustrator Samuel Glättli has created two book covers in stamp format.

Always on the move and with a love of nature – that's what Globine is all about. This cheerful and adventurous girl lives in a tree house she built herself, together with Rudi the owl and Mathilda the squirrel. Together, they experience exciting adventures and work to protect the animal world. And that goes for the two designs based on book covers too: in "Globine in the city," the clever girl sets out to find a replacement part for the broken church bells in her village. In the second story, "Globine and the birds," she saves an endangered bird's nest and creates a safe place for her feathered friends.

Limited to 1,500 copies



Special cover with the Globi stamps from 1997 and 2020

“A world they like to be in”

Samuel Glättli has been illustrating the Globi and Globine books for over thirteen years now. We talk to him about fantasy worlds and the reality of doing the laundry.

Photo: Ned Glättli

Samuel Glättli is a freelance illustrator and comic artist. After graduating from the Liceo Artistico in Zurich, he completed his animation film traininggat the Vancouver Film School in Canada.

Samuel Glättli, with Globi you took over an existing character. What was that like for you?
It was a challenge, but a cool one. The drawing style suits me very well. It flowed right from the start. But, looking back, I would say that I really got into it from about the fifth book on.

And then came Globine…
That’s right. Ten years ago, I had the pleasure of redesigning Globine. Compared to the publications in the 1980s and 1990s, the drawing style became more modern. The character itself has also changed. Globine has always been cheeky – but gender roles in earlier stories were narrowly conceived. In collaboration with the Globi Verlag publisher, we developed the character further – how she lives, what she likes doing and what she looks like.

Speaking of looks: why do comic characters always tend to wear the same thing?
That’s not quite right. In one volume, Globine gives us a look at her wardrobe, where she has the same outfit several times. So sooner or later, even in the fantasy world, the laundry has to be done (laughs). For picture book characters, generally wearing the same clothes serves as something to recognize them by. Take Globi as an example: all I’d have to do is draw his checked trousers and beret and the character would be instantly recognizable.

What makes for a good picture book?
That depends on the audience. For children, the story needs to be fun first and foremost. They should be able to immerse themselves in a cheerful world they like to be in. Where they can experience things that wouldn’t be possible in real life, for instance because you can’t simply cancel the laws of physics (laughs). It’s also important to get the action right – just like the editing in a film, the rhythm of the sequence of images has to be right.

How does a Globine book take shape?
Once the topic has been defined, I write a rough outline of the plot. After that, I think about how to fit the story into exactly 60 pages. I take a A3 sheet of paper and sketch out each scene in miniature format, about the same size as stamps. Then I flesh out each page in detail with images and text. The drawings are created on a giant tablet with a digital pen – all by hand.

Simply order at postshop.ch

Postal card set

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 10 stamps
1.00 Nature
★ A548 361 / ⊙ A548 381 / *CHF 10.00*
1.20 City
★ A548 362 / ⊙ A548 382 / *CHF 12.00*

Set
★ A548 150 / ⊙ A548 550 / *CHF 2.20*

Set of blocks of four
★ A548 160 / ⊙ A548 560 / *CHF 8.80*

Covers

Set on first-day cover C6
⊙ A548 580 / *CHF 3.10*

Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)
⊙ A548 600 / *CHF 4.00*

Block of four on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)
⊙ A548 630 / *CHF 10.60*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A548 700 / *CHF 0.90*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A548 640 / ⊙ A548 650 / *CHF 3.00*

Postal stationery

Set of two postal cards, relevant face value and CHF 1.00 each for the cards
★ A548 841 / ⊙ A548 846 / *CHF 4.20*

Special cover C5

⊙ A548 990 / *CHF 13.90*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

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Branches: from 7.11.2024 to 31.12.2025 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 7.11.2024

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Formats Stamp: 28×33 mm
Sheet: 100×228 mm (open), 100×114 mm (folded), 5 rows of 2 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm^2

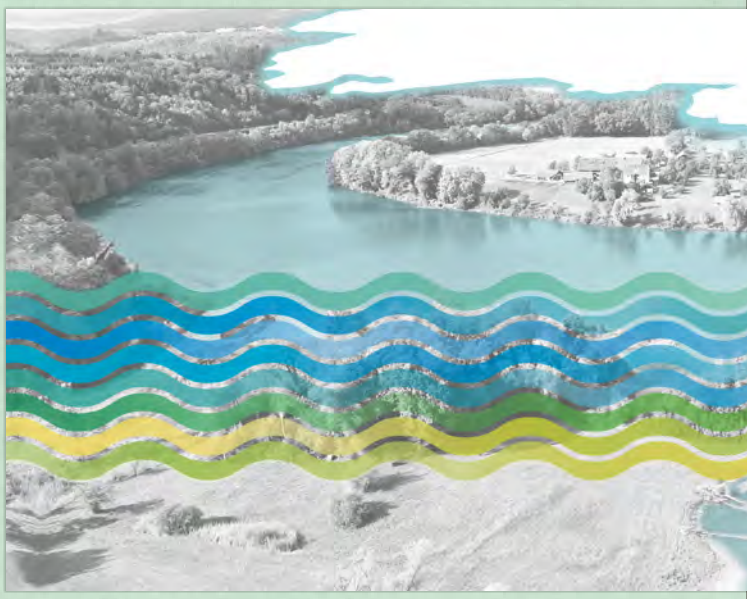
Perforation Serpentine cut (4 sides)

Design Samuel Glättli, Zürich

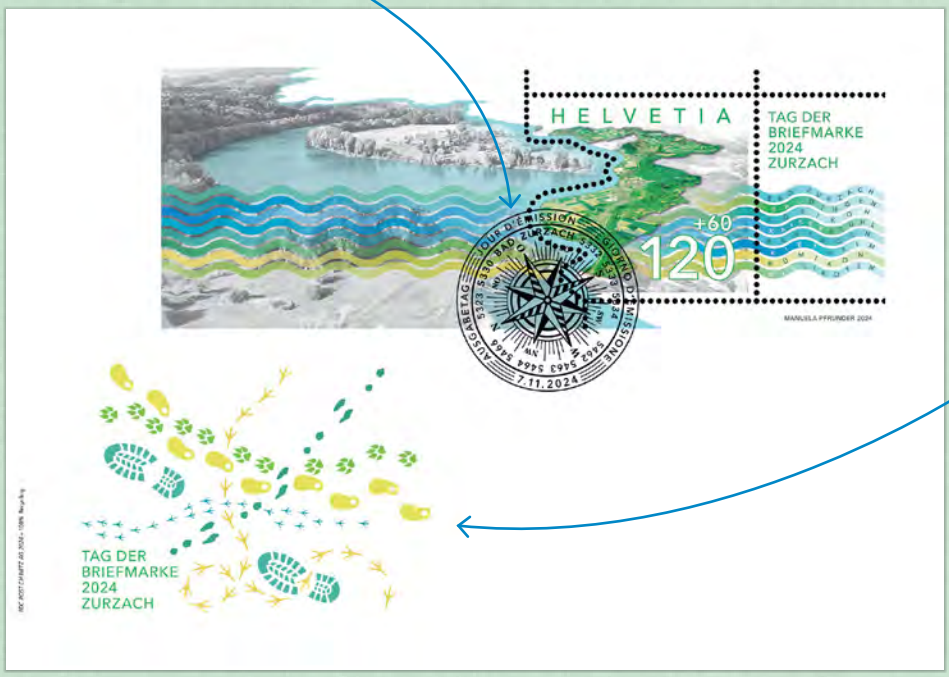
Commune of confluence

Stamp Day 2024 takes place in Zurzach. In her design of the stamp issued to mark this occasion, Manuela Pfrunder incorporated the significance of the body of water for the municipality. Here, we take a closer look at her design concept.

At a glance
The left-hand side of the miniature sheet shows the Rhine landscape in the Zurzibiet area (AG). "To enable me to depict the municipality of Zurzach as a whole on the stamp, I decided on an illustration from a bird's eye view," explains Pfrunder. And to ensure that the view from above is as faithful as possible, its accuracy was checked by the municipality's district surveyor.



Compass rose à la Zurzach
The compass rose in the middle of the stamp shows North at 117 degrees. "This corresponds to the orientation of the Zurzach municipal area on the stamp," explains Pfrunder. The inner circle of text contains all the district postcodes. Based on the postal routes, they are divided into two segments: one running from north to south and one from west to north.



Miniature sheet on first-day cover C6

Meeting place and adventure space
The design on the first-day cover shows human and animal tracks as you might find them on the banks of the Rhine: a child walking, holding the hand of an adult and accompanied by a dog. In the same place, a hare has hopped past, while a small and a large bird scour the ground.

Postal card

Bond and border

The Rhine connects all eight districts, which merged in 2022 to form the municipality of Zurzach. At the same time, the river also forms the border with Germany. "That gave me the idea for the special perforation that winds its way through the middle of the miniature sheet," says the designer.

Derived from the coat of arms

Taken together, the waves symbolize the Rhine, and individually each of the districts of the municipality of Zurzach: Bad Zurzach, Baldingen, Böbikon, Kaiserstuhl, Rekingen, Rietheim, Rümikon and Wislikofen. "Similar to the new municipal coat of arms with its eight blue wavy lines," says Pfrunder.

Stamp exhibition ZUBRA 2024, level II

Place: Turnhalle Tiergarten, 5330 Bad Zurzach

Opening times of exhibition, stamp exchange and sales stand with cancellation service
Thursday, 21 November 2024, 9.30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Friday, 22 November 2024, 9.30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday, 23 November 2024, 9.30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Swiss Post will run a sales stand with a cancellation service. The special cancellation depicted here will be used. Individual documents can also be sent to the following address by 21 November:
Post CH Network Ltd, Retail Logistics, Cancellation Service, "TdBM2024", Werkstrasse 41, 3250 Lyss, Switzerland.

Autograph session
Manuela Pfrunder, designer of the miniature sheet, will be signing her works on Saturday, 23 November 2024 from 10 a.m to 11.30 a.m.

You can find more information at zubra2024.ch.

Special cancellation

Products

Stamps

Miniature sheet with surcharge
★ A551 315 / ⊙ A551 815 / *CHF 1.80*

Covers

Miniature sheet on first-day cover C6
⊙ A551 580 / *CHF 2.70*

Cover without miniature sheet C6
★ A551 700 / *CHF 0.90*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A551 640 / ⊙ A551 650 / *CHF 2.60*

Postal stationery

Postal card A6, face value and CHF 1.00 for the card
★ A551 841 / ⊙ A551 846 / *CHF 2.80*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 31.10.2024 to 31.12.2025 or while stocks last
Branches: from 7.11.2024 to 31.12.2025 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 7.11.2024

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

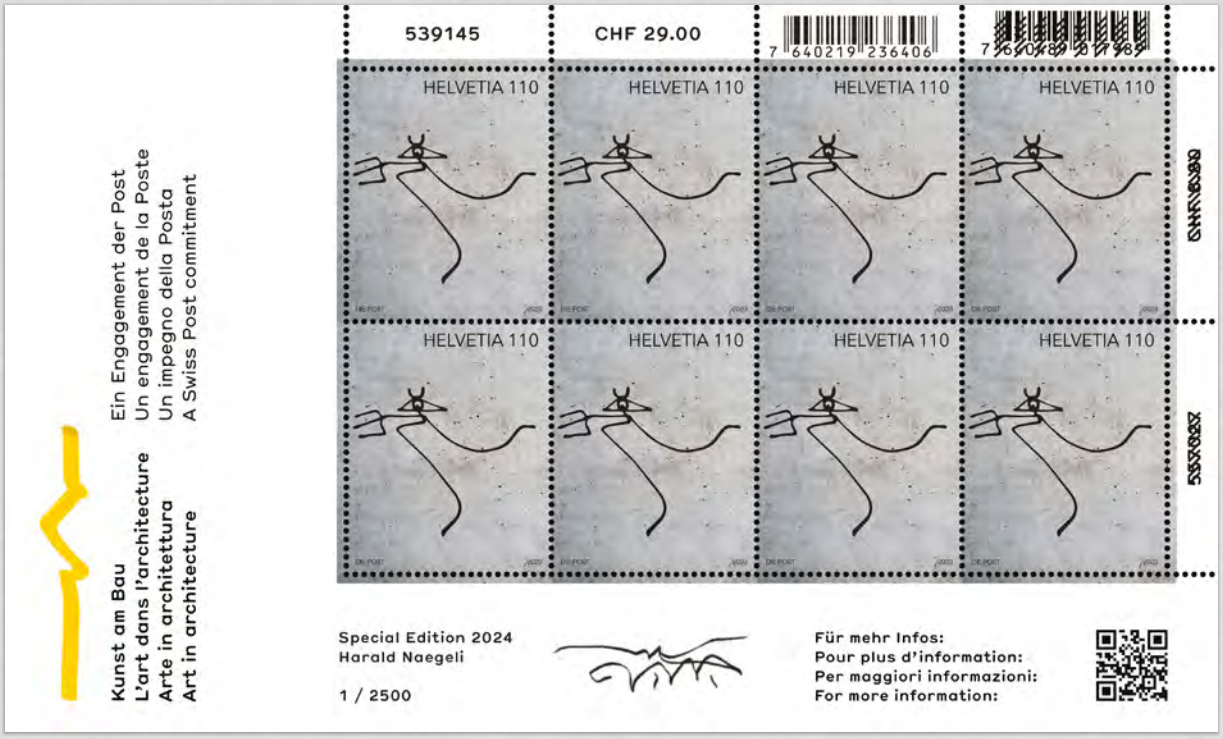
Formats Stamp: 40×35 mm
Miniature sheet: 125×45 mm
miniature sheet with one stamp

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation 14:14

Design Manuela Pfrunder, Flums

Simply order at postshop.ch



Limited special issue of 2,500 sheetlets

Concrete as a foundation

Harald Naegeli has left his mark on street art in Switzerland. In recognition of his pioneering work, a special edition of the "Art in architecture" stamp with one of his most famous graffiti designs is being issued.

But what should be done with the remaining stocks of the "Art in architecture" stamp, which was issued in 2023? That was the question facing Diana Pavlicek, Head of the Art Department at Swiss Post. "I wanted to upcycle the leftover stamps to give them a new lease of life. I was toying with the idea of recasting them with a work of art," says Pavlicek. And so what had to come together came together: "A grey concrete wall – perfect for Naegeli's spray-painted drawings". She invited the internationally renowned artist to use the existing "concrete stamp", which is finished with cement pigment, as the basis for his work.

"Laufendes Auge" (Running Eye).
For the limited special issue, 2,500 "Art in architecture" stamps will be overprinted with Harald Naegeli's "Laufendes Auge" (Running Eye), which he produced in his early days between 1977 and 1979. Around that time, he sprayed up to 2,500 figures in Zurich, including mythical creatures and symbolic signs – and often eyes, which kept appearing in various places – including Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Berlin. "The eye is one of his best-known motifs," says Pavlicek, explaining the choice of design. Naegeli himself provides no explanation of the figures, saying that they come from the unconscious. And usually created in the dark: "…because I often can't even see the figures at night, I don't rely on the eye, I rely on a physical passage of time. I could spray blind if I had to. I then realize from a certain rhythm, ok, the figure is now there or it isn't," says Naegeli in his 1991 book "Der Sprayer in Venedig".

Tribute to a pioneer
Naegeli achieved world renown as the "Sprayer of Zurich". Opinion about Naegeli and his spray-painted drawings in public spaces was divided – dismissed as graffiti, accused of damaging property and celebrated as an artist (more on this in the "Focus" section on Naegeli, pages 8 to 11). "Naegeli paved the way for street art in Switzerland. The stamp is our tribute to Naegeli's pioneering work and the multifaceted nature of his art," explains Pavlicek. She sees the combination of stamp and artwork as a symbol of Swiss Post's commitment to art, through which the company has been promoting artistic and cultural activities in Switzerland for more than 100 years.

Set on Swiss Post's commitment to art

In 2020, Swiss Post realigned its traditional commitment to art based on three pillars. In a three-part set, a separate stamp was dedicated to each category (the stamps are no longer available).

Art collection, 2021

Art in the periphery, 2022

Art in architecture, 2023

"Naegeli paved the way for street art in Switzerland. The stamp is our tribute to Naegeli's pioneering work and the multifaceted nature of his art."

Diana Pavlicek, Head of the Art Department at Swiss Post

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Special sheet of 8 stamps
★ A570 411 / *CHF 29.00*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 7.11.2024
to 31.12.2025 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 7.11.2024

Overprint Digital print, 1-colour,
2,500 sheetlets, limited edition;
J. E. Wolfensberger AG, Birmensdorf

Formats Stamp: 32.5×40 mm
Sheetlet: 115×192 mm
2 rows of 4 stamps

Paper White stamp paper,
with optical brightener, self-adhesive,
on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation 13½:13¼

Design Post CH Network Ltd with a work by Harald Naegeli, Bern

Simply order at postshop.ch

The artist Harald Naegeli in his workshop in Zurich.

Photo: Andrea Zahler

More details about the artist Harald Naegeli in the "Focus" section, p. 8–11.

Would you like to follow in the footsteps of Harald Naegeli? The website of the Harald Naegeli foundation has an online map of the locations in Zurich and Düsseldorf where you can discover his works.

www.sprayervonzuerich.com

Human ingenuity

Young entrepreneurs

This nostalgic photo was taken at the end of the 1950s in front of the post office on Skalitzer Strasse in Berlin's Kreuzberg district – a humorous depiction, playing on the fact that stamps have to be licked before sticking them on a letter.

Philately universe

Did you know?

Down to the cave

In the last issue of Focus on stamps, we featured the world's highest post office. Are you maybe wondering where the lowest one might be found? For that, you'll need to go a long way down – to a depth of 80 metres below the earth's surface. There, in the beautiful caves of Postojna in Slovenia, you will find the "postal aquarium", which is in fact just a glassed-in souvenir shop with a letter box, although it does at least allow you to send postcards and letters, as it has since 1899. And the post office in a cave even has its own postmark. The underground post office used to be very busy, with up to four people needed to manage the volume of postcards and letters. Today, the boom has tapered off to the extent that the souvenir shop assistant now also acts as postmistress. In 2013, Austria and Slovenia marked the opening of the original post office with special stamps.

Images: Postojna Cave, Slovenia; Igiel family

Readers' letters

"You ask what I like about "Focus on stamps". All of the pages with the new issues. When I get my copy of "Focus on stamps", it's as if a friend has given me a good bottle of wine. I'm no spring chicken – I'm 81 years old – and I've been collecting stamps for over 70 years. I've spent thousands of wonderful hours on it. Many years, ago I gave two boxes full of stamps to my godchildren and I now write about 50 letters a year with the new issues to my brother in Austria, who collects the postal stationery. I think it's a shame that young people are more interested in their mobile phones than in communicating with other collectors."

O. Frick, Münchenbuchsee (BE)

Focus on stamps editorial team: Thank you, Mr Frick, for your kind words! Yes indeed, stamp collecting is a wonderful activity that brings a great deal of joy. For the younger generation, there are new products like crypto stamps, which are becoming more and more popular and offer a different kind of collecting (namely digital).

The "Christmas design" stamp from the 1987 Pro Juventute year set.

1998 saw the first issue of Swiss Post's own Christmas stamp.

175 years Swiss Post

The very first Christmas stamps

Switzerland's first Christmas stamp was in November 1987, part of a "Pro Juventute" stamp set issued at the end of that year. To mark its 75th anniversary, the foundation created four stamps on the theme of young children, as well as a Christmas stamp – which is a first! The stamp depicts a girl holding her hand protectively in front of the flame from her candle, the symbol of warmth and security.
More than ten years later, Swiss Post issued its own Christmas stamp. Customers had been waiting for this stamp with no surcharge for a long time. "People eagerly preparing for Christmas want to be able to frank their mail with a stamp that reflects their anticipation. A distinctive stamp is just the thing their Christmas mail has always been lacking. And this year, for the first time, they have it," said the Head of Stamps & Philately in the October 1998 issue of Focus on stamps. The stamp features a pretty gift in the colours typical of the festive season.

Dialogue

Readers' letters

Share your philatelic discoveries with us, or simply tell us about your reactions as you read the magazine.

stamps@swisspost.ch

Post CH Network Ltd
Swiss Post Contact Center
Stamps & Philately
Wankdorfallee 4
3030 Bern

Social media

Swiss Post is active on the following social networks: Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok, YouTube, X (formerly Twitter). Follow us on the social networks – so you're always up to date. We look forward to reading your comments.

We want to know!

For the quick and anonymous survey, simply scan the QR code:

feedback.post.ch/lupe

Mammoths in Switzerland

What was Switzerland like when mammoths still lived here? The "Giants of the Ice Age" stamp designs invite you to take a journey back in time to the prehistoric animal kingdom. A mammoth expert gives us his insights.

There is evidence of the existence of these long-haired heavyweights at around 100 locations in the valleys of the Swiss plateau and Jura mountains. They lived where the glaciers receded during the warmer periods of the Ice Age, giving way to a grassy steppe – the ideal environment for mammoths. One of the richest archaeological sites in Switzerland is Niederweningen (ZH), home of the Mammoth Museum dedicated to the history of these giants. In this interview, the museum's scientific advisor Heinz Furrer tells us how mammoths and humans coexisted – and challenges a long-held myth.

Heinz Furrer, is it just a feeling or are mammoths the stars of the Ice Age?

Mammoths were the biggest animals in Europe during the Ice Age. Their appearance is imposing. They also generate huge enthusiasm in our museum. Every child is familiar with images of how the tousled giants are portrayed in the animated film Ice Age – as our shaggy friends.

Does this match the character of the mammoth?

Mammoths are often seen as large, long-haired elephants. This is actually quite an accurate picture, as the two are related. We can deduce some of their character traits: for example, mammoths were probably also intelligent animals that lived in families.

And how did humans get along with them?

The woolly mammoth migrated to Central Europe around 250,000 years ago. Finds show that the animals, adapted to cold climates, lived in the same landscape as the Neanderthals, and later Homo sapiens, that is to say modern humans. However, there is little archaeological evidence that humans actually actively hunted mammoths.

Is that just a myth?

That's a matter of debate among the experts. One assumption is that humans were capable of cornering and killing mammoths. In my view, that seems unlikely. Bringing down a mammoth – standing three-and-a-half metres tall, and with thick fur and a layer of fat – using a wooden spear with a stone tip is an extremely dangerous undertaking. I think that people used the carcasses of injured or sick animals to make tools or clothing. For meat, they hunted smaller prey, such as red deer, wild boar or hares.

What else are mammoth researchers looking into?

As research evolves, it is yielding frequent new findings. Today, scientists are focusing mainly on DNA analysis, for example to investigate the relatedness of mammoths in Switzerland, Central Europe, Siberia and North America. In Japan and the United States, attempts to clone mammoths have also been underway for many years now, though without success to date. As I see it, however, it would make far more sense to invest efforts into saving animals from extinction.

Special sheet of 4 stamps

Palaeontologist and mammoth specialist Heinz Furrer acted as an advisor during production of the stamps.

Simply order at postshop.ch

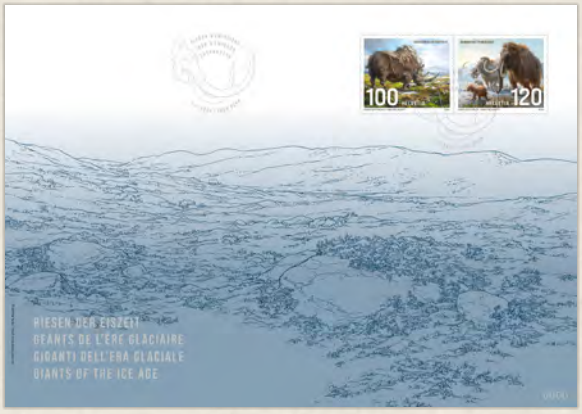
Set on first-day cover C6

Silver woolly mammoth 2 oz – 2024

Secure your silver "Giants of the Ice Age" now.

post.philoro.ch/en/numismatics

Limited to 1,500 copies



special cover E6, with silver foil finish

Scan the stamps and win cool prizes in the photo competition.

Portrait: H. Luginbühl

Products

Stamps

Sheetlet of 10 stamps
1.00 Woolly rhinoceros
★ A549 311 / ⊙ A549 351 / *CHF 10.00*
1.20 Woolly mammoth
★ A549 312 / ⊙ A549 352 / *CHF 12.00*

Set
★ A549 150 / ⊙ A549 550 / *CHF 2.20*

Set of blocks of four
★ A549 160 / ⊙ A549 560 / *CHF 8.80*

Covers

Set on first-day cover C6
⊙ A549 580 / *CHF 3.10*

Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)
⊙ A549 600 / *CHF 4.00*

Block of four on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)
⊙ A549 630 / *CHF 10.60*

Sheetlet on first-day cover C5
Woolly rhinoceros
⊙ A549 591 / *CHF 11.20*
Woolly mammoth
⊙ A549 592 / *CHF 13.20*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A549 700 / *CHF 0.90*
C5 (229×162 mm)
★ A549 701 / *CHF 1.20*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A549 640 / ⊙ A549 650 / *CHF 3.00*

Special cover E6

⊙ A549 991 / *CHF 8.90*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Special sheet of 4 stamps

★ A549 990 / *CHF 4.40*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 31.10.2024 to 31.12.2025 or while stocks last
Branches: from 7.11.2024 to 31.12.2025 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 7.11.2024

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein

Formats Stamp: 33×28 mm
Sheet: 192×95 mm, 2 rows of 5 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation 13 ½:13 ¼

Design Anita Dettwiler / Dani Pelagatti, Zurich

The Stamps & Philately team, from left to right: Wendy Stranges, Stefan Bühler, Isabelle Bühler, Julien Jordan, Corinne Lutz, Hugo Treyer, Laura Palermo, Marc Stettler, Kurt Strässle, Sven Steiger, Maria Elena Rosa

Thank you!

Dear Focus on stamps reader

We would like to thank you very much for your loyalty and trust. Like you, we're enthusiastic about philately, and about presenting our new stamp issues in each issue of Focus on stamps. We like to tell stories in our magazine – and not only from Switzerland. Our goal is to stimulate your imagination, awaken your passion for collecting or simply whet your appetite for franking your letters with beautiful and appropriate stamps. We always move with the times and offer you innovations and fascinating new products. Your trust is important to us! We'll do our utmost to continue to impress you with our philatelic products in the future.

Stefan Bühler and the Stamps & Philately team

Special stamp **Paddington**

With a hat, suitcase and lots of marmalade

Join in with us!
Take part in the competition! For more information, go to swisspost.ch/stamps.

On the occasion of the release of the film "Paddington in Peru", Swiss Post is issuing two stamps honouring the famous British bear.

Cinema releases Switzerland
German-speaking
January 30, 2025
French-speaking
February 5, 2025
Italien-speaking
January 16, 2025

Everyone knows the little bear with the red hat and unmistakable blue duffle coat. Paddington loves adventure and has a weakness for marmalade sandwiches. The world-famous bear first appeared on the big screen in 2014 in a movie based on the thirteen-part book series. A third movie called "Paddington in Peru" will follow in January 2025, taking the audience on a turbulent journey to Paddington's homeland. There's more than one surprise waiting for the clumsy bear and the Brown family!
www.paddingtoninperu-film.ch

Special sheet of 3 stamps each

Important note: The "Paddington" special stamps are not part of the official stamp issuing programme and are not included in subscriptions. They will be sent along with Issue 4 from 31 October 2024.
Available for order at postshop.ch or in all branches from 7 November 2024. The special sheet is available online, via order form or in the six branches with stamp counters.

Images: PADDINGTON © P&Co Limited/SC 2024 – The movie «Paddington in Peru» has been developed and produced by STUDIOCANAL.

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 10 stamps each
1.00 portrait
★ A624 361 / *CHF 10.00*
1.20 suitcase
★ A624 362 / *CHF 12.00*

Special sheet of 3 stamps each
★ A624 990 / *CHF 6.60*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 31.10.2024 to 31.12.2025 or while stocks last
Branches: from 7.11.2024 to 31.12.2025 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 7.11.2024

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Formats
Stamp: portrait 40×32.5 mm, suitcase 32.5×40 mm
Sheet: portrait 100×228 mm (open), 100×114 mm (folded)
Suitcase: 82×198 mm (open), 82×99 mm (folded), 5 rows of 2 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation Serpentine cut (4 sides)

Design © P&Co Limited/SC 2024

Simply order at postshop.ch

Stamp set for children

The giants are roaming around

In the current issue, Phila and Franco visit the Zoological Museum. They are particularly fascinated by woolly mammoths and woolly rhinoceroses. Because although they have long since died out, they once lived alongside us humans. Two of the eight stamps in the set (six mint, two mint) show what the giants of the Ice Age looked like. There is also loads of fun to be had with puzzles, crafts and collecting.

Farewell edition.
After three years of exciting adventures, Phila and Franco are saying goodbye with the last issue (4/2024) of the stamp set. These and current issues will continue to be available at Swiss Post branches and at postshop.ch until the end of 2025.

Product

Stamp set for children
German / ★ A554 901 / *CHF 12.00*
French / ★ A554 902 / *CHF 12.00*
Italian / ★ A554 903 / *CHF 12.00*

Technical information

Length: 20 pages

Contents: Six stamps valid for postage, two cancelled stamps, three postcards to colour in

Face values included: CHF 5.95

Publication: Four times a year

Suitable for: Children between the ages of seven and ten

philoro

In cooperation with Swiss Post

FASCINATING NUMISMATICS

TREASURES OF THE NORTH AND THE ICE AGE. ENRICH YOUR COLLECTION!

Gold and Silver King of the North PP - 2024

This exclusive ¼ oz fine gold coin and 1 oz fine silver coin depict the majestic polar bear, known as the "King of the North". The ultra-high relief makes for a perfect impression of the animal's striking roar and the fine detail. The fine proof-grade strike and smartminting® technology let this coin radiate with a unique look and make it a genuine highlight for collectors.

CHF 900.00

¼ oz | 999.9 fine gold | pieces lissued: 250

CHF 130.00

1 oz | 999 fine silver | pieces lissued: 1'000

Silber Woolly Mammoth - 2024

The detailed design of the Woolly Mammoth makes this 2 oz fine silver coin a very special piece. An absolute must-have for lovers of prehistoric animals and discerning collectors.

Our tip:

The matching stamp, available only at Swiss Post.

© Post CH Network Ltd

CHF 79.00

2 oz | 999 fine silver | pieces lissued: 250

Eisgenoss Silver Edition - 2024

The Eisgenoss sets new numismatic standards and combines collector's value with technical innovation. Numerous benefits are activated when the NFC chip is scanned. Considering the monetary and sentimental value of the privileges and the value of the material, this unique puck made of pure silver is worth more than the selling price!

CHF 3'700.00

1'000 g | 999 fine silver | pieces lissued: 200

All prices include VAT. The product illustrations may differ from the original size.

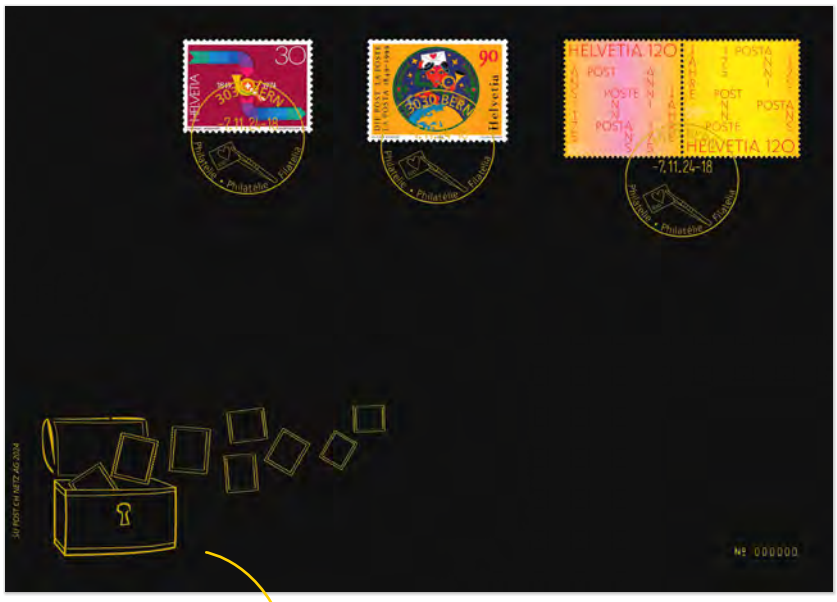
OBTAIN YOUR LIMITED-EDITION COLLECTOR'S ITEM ONLINE NOW AT **post.philoro.ch/en/numismatics**
OR FIND YOUR CLOSEST BRANCH HERE: swisspost.ch/philoro

Swiss Post anniversary

Then and now

A special cover supplements the products issued to mark Swiss Post's 175th anniversary.

Swiss Post makes history. It is there for its customers, in the mountains and valleys, villages and towns, in the various language regions, for young and old, for work and leisure. In issue 1/2024, we featured products marking our 175th anniversary for you. The new 4/2024 issue also offers a supplementary special cover. Experience some of Swiss Post's past and rediscover today's Swiss Post with the four stamps on the special cover: two from back then – the anniversary stamps from 1999 (issued for the 150th anniversary of Swiss Post) and 1974 (for the 125th anniversary) – supplemented by the two stamps marking the current anniversary.



Limited to 1,750 copies, to match the anniversary year

Special cover C5
⊙ A522 990 / *CHF 12.90*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

#postpacart
#attractiveandpractical
#nogiftwrap

#artandsustainability
#reusepackaging
#concernforglaciers

Event calendar

See you soon?

24 to 26 October

International Stamp Fair in Ulm, DE
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

7 November

Issue date 4/2024

7 to 9 November

77th Salon philatélique d'Automne in Paris, FR
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

In November

Globine event
9.11 Zurich 1 Sihlpost branch
13.11 Basel 18 Gundeldingen branch
16.11 Lucerne 1 Hauptpost branch

21 to 23 November

Stamp Day 2024 in Zurzach, CH
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

21 to 23 November

139a Veronafil in Verona, IT
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

6 to 7 December

Christmas branch in Bern-Bethlehem, CH
Visit our sales stand with cancellation service

The right to make updates and changes is reserved. The latest version can always be found at swisspost.ch/collecting-stamps.

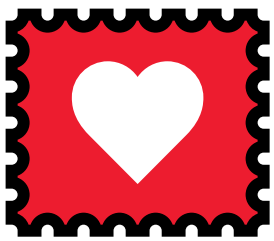
Issuing programme

Anticipation is the greatest feeling

Issue date: 6 March 2025
Featured in: Focus on stamps 1/2025

3.40	**Special events**
1.00	Thanks
1.20	Solace
1.20	Congratulations
1.20	**750 years Lausanne Cathedral**
1.20	**150 years Appenzell Railways**
2.50	**150 years Federal Supreme Court**
1.20	**50 years Swiss Paraplegic Foundation**
2.20	**Seasonal flowers**
1.00	Spring
1.20	Summer
1.20	**Eurovision Song Contest 2025**
12.05	**Our solar system**
0.05	Moon
0.10	Mercury
0.20	Mars
1.00	Venus
1.20	Earth
1.40	Neptune
1.70	Uranus
1.90	Saturn
2.00	Jupiter
2.50	Sun

Subject to change.
As at: August 2024



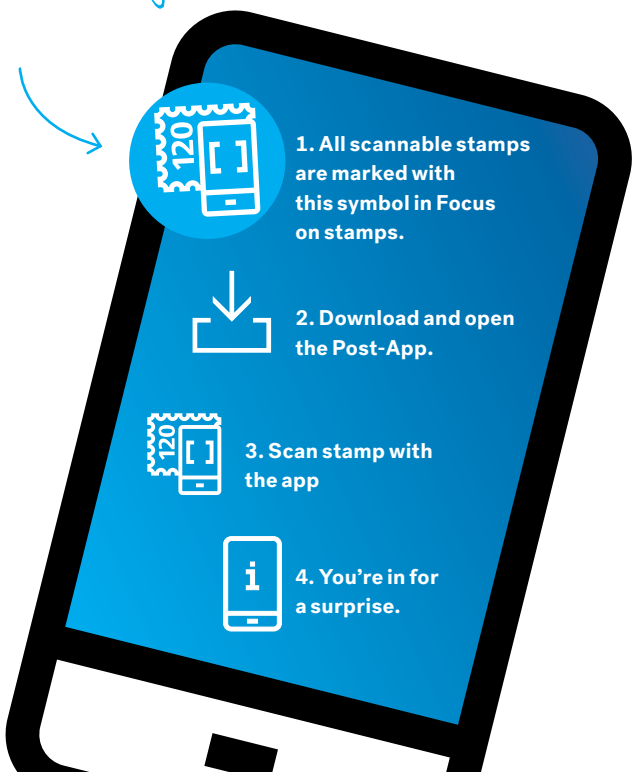
Which stamp has won your heart?

Which is the most beautiful Swiss stamp of 2024?

Take part and choose your favourite stamp. Voting is open from 26 September to 8 December 2024 at swisspost.ch/most-beautiful-stamp. With a bit of luck, you could win one of these great prizes: 10 × one copy of the year book of Swiss stamps 2024 worth 94 francs and a voucher for postshop.ch worth 50 francs.

The (digital) world of stamps

A world of discovery


1. All scannable stamps are marked with this symbol in Focus on stamps.
2. Download and open the Post-App.
3. Scan stamp with the app
4. You're in for a surprise.

Colourful stamps

All your heart desires

2024 year set

2024 year set with first-day covers (FDC)

Stamp catalogue Zumstein

Swiss stamp catalogue

Products

Issue set with single stamps 4/2024
The single stamps and sets in the 4/2024 issue are displayed on a free A5 backing card and protected with cellophane wrapping.
★ A553 150 / ⊙ A553 550 / *CHF 16.10*

Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 4/2024
The first-day covers with single stamps and sets in the 4/2024 issue are combined in one free cover.
⊙ A553 580 / *CHF 20.60*

2024 year set
All Swiss stamps for 2024, clearly laid out on four handy display cards with transparent protective sleeve.
★ A556 320 / ⊙ A556 820 / *CHF 80.00*

2024 year set with first-day covers (FDC)
All first-day covers in 2024 – including the single stamps, sets or miniature sheets with the respective first-day cancellations.
⊙ A556 530 / *CHF 105.30*

Zumstein stamp catalogue Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN Geneva
2025, German/French
★ A569 725 / *CHF 35.00*

Swiss stamp catalogue Switzerland 2025, German/French
★ A569 787 / *CHF 29.00*
The stamp catalogues can be delivered in Switzerland and Liechtenstein only.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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Photo: Andri Oberli

Handover of donations

Swiss Crypto Stamp 4.0

From 10 to 16 June 2024, the Unique Edition of the Swiss Crypto Stamp 4.0 was auctioned exclusively on Ricardo as part of #RicardoForGood, with bids starting at 1 franc.

#RicardoForGood is a project by Ricardo that supports Swiss personalities and companies with the auctioning of unique personal items and one-off experiences for a good cause. The auction was a complete success. The proceeds of 10,004 francs were donated in full to the nature conservation organization Pro Natura.

Stefan Bühler (right), Head of Stamps & Philately at Swiss Post, hands over the cheque to Richard Geer, Head of Communication & Marketing at Pro Natura, in front of Swiss Post's headquarters in Wankdorf.

Year book of Swiss stamps 2024

A record of our times with stamps

150 years of compulsory school, endangered fish species, Swiss inventions and the Paris Olympics – the year book brings together all the stamps issued in 2024. It tells the background stories of each of the designs, shedding light on social issues affecting Switzerland and providing a platform for artistic creation. They take a look back, reveal some surprises and capture the present as a record of our times. "The year book is a memento put together with great care and has itself become a collector's item," says Corinne Lutz, Project Manager at Swiss Post, with satisfaction. It also makes the book attractive as a gift – and not only for stamp enthusiasts: "Anyone interested in art, visual themes or history would be delighted to find a copy under the Christmas tree."

Oversized or shrunk?

The artistic duo Cortis & Sonderegger are well-known for their recreations of historical events or works of art. For the 2024 year book, they have re-created the stamp designs – sometimes in their mini-studio.

Real or from a 3D printer? If you don't look closely at the pictures produced by Jojakim Cortis and Adrian Sonderegger, you'll quickly be deceived. Sophisticated, humorous staging, playing around with dimensions and painstaking visual trickery are their trademarks. For the visual concept of the current year book, the photographers took apart elements of the original designs and put them back together by association.
All pictures were taken at their photo studio in Adliswil. The pair don't disclose which of them were created in their mini-studio: "The confusion is intentional. Our pictures call for a keen eye – just like philately. We really appreciated the collaboration," says Adrian Sonderegger.

Photo: Cortis & Sonderegger

Jojakim Cortis (right) and Adrian Sonderegger have been working together for around 20 years. A typical feature of their images is their clear visual aesthetic and conceptual depth.

Play on the miniature

A stamp in poster format? What grew big or stayed small? Besides playing with the proportions, the artist duo's visual concept is characterized by an elaborate construction made of rods, tools, light and fog machines.

Skiing on paper mountains

In their interpretation of the special stamp on Swiss attractions, Cortis & Sonderegger created a landscape around the cut-out skier using simple, abstract media.

2024 year book
Representing a valuable record of our times, the year book contains 54 original stamps worth CHF 80.00, each inserted by hand, along with an exclusive black print and images of the first-day cancellations. It is published in four languages (de/fr/it/en) and comprises 124 pages. ★ A555 830 / ⊙ A555 831 / *CHF 94.00*

Key: ★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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